



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff Dale J Schmidt

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This morning Sheriff Dale Schmidt received a phone call from the number 605-291-6542 which said, ""Hello. This call is officially a final notice from the Internal Revenue Service. The reason of this call is to inform you the IRS is filing lawsuit against you. To get more information about this case file please call immediately on our department number 605-291-6542. Thank you."

Being curious, Sheriff Schmidt called that number back. A female answered the phone by saying "Internal Revenue Service". Sheriff Schmidt inquired if there was a way to verify that they were the IRS. The response was, "it is not our job to verify who we are" and they hung up. The Sheriff was more curious and decided to call back again. This time a male answered and below is an edited transcript of that conversation.

Scammer: "Thank you for calling the Internal Revenue Service, how may I help you?"

Sheriff: "I am the Sheriff in Dodge County Wisconsin, and I had a complaint about this number and I am trying to confirm that this is in fact the IRS. Is there a way that you can confirm this for me?"

Scammer: "No sir, this is not the IRS. This is a scam"

Sheriff: "This is a scam?"

Scammer: "Yes"

Sheriff: "OK, can you tell me where you are from? Where you are located?"

Scammer: "In Afghanistan"

Sheriff: "In Afghanistan?"

Scammer: "Yes"

Sheriff: "Can you tell me your name?"

Scammer: "Malma Dahli (Spelling?)

Sheriff: "Why are you scamming our citizens?"

Scammer: "This is our job sir"

Sheriff: "You're stealing money from people"

Scammer: "Yes"

Sheriff: "And why are you doing that?"

At this time the scammer hangs up on the Sheriff

A phone number of a personal cell phone was given to the Sheriff by the scammer which turned out to be a private number to a citizen in Illinois. That portion of the phone call was edited out to protect that person's identity and phone number.

Unfortunately these scams are very difficult to investigate as it is difficult to locate the people responsible. The phone numbers used are usually spoofed and untraceable by law enforcement. It also seems to be that many of these calls are placed from outside of the United States and out of the jurisdiction of our law enforcement agencies.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office urges you to question phone calls like this. The IRS will not call you demanding money and most reputable businesses and organizations will notify you of delinquent payments or problems with your account via correspondence by mail. If in doubt, please contact your local law enforcement agency for assistance and never give out money over the phone or using a prepaid money card. If you have been victimized, please report it. If you receive these calls, your best course of action is simply to hang up and go on with your day.

Attached is the audio recording of Sheriff Schmidt's phone call with the scammer

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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